

## PRIMARY BILL AGAIN.

THE SENATE DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE TIME TO IT.

A LIVELY DEBATE YESTERDAY.

Senators Flanagan and Barksdale.

Speak on the Measure—The Discussion Will Be Closed Wednesday—A Number of Bills Passed.

The senatorial primary bill was again the subject of debate in the Senate yesterday, Mr. Flanagan concluding his speech against it begun Friday, and Mr. Barksdale closing for it. The bill went over until Wednesday, when Mr. Flood will close the debate in a speech against it.

A large number of spectators heard the debate yesterday, which was probably the most entertaining of the session, the speech of Mr. Barksdale making a decided hit. Consideration of the bill was begun when Mr. Wickham concluded his speech on the appropriation bill at 1:15.

MR. FLANAGAN'S SPEECH.

Mr. Flanagan began his speech by paying compliments to the speakers who were to follow him, and to the number of ladies behind the bar, whom he informed that they would soon have the pleasure of listening to the Senator from Halifax—little "Cupid," as it was the pleasure of his friends to call him. Referring to the defeat of Pittsburg Lee for election to the Senate, he said, were it Cuba now, there was no assurance that he could be sent to the Senate were he a candidate, so powerful were corporation interests against him. He commended to Senator Barksdale the example of Senator Wickham, who had said he was not ashamed of having once been a Republican. He paid a beautiful tribute to General Williams C. Wickham, and said the Senator from Hanover was "the noble son of a noble sire."

MR. BARKSDALE'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Barksdale followed Mr. Flanagan. He said he hoped it would be understood that he was thoroughly ashamed of having been once a Republican, but that when he was it was infinitely more respectable than now; that even when he was with it the party was not respectable enough to appreciate Williams C. Wickham, and he never had his party's confidence. "Why, Mr. President, the negroes of old Halifax are getting so respectable they vote the Democratic ticket, and I want to tell the Senator from Powhatan, that when this wave of responsibility reaches his district this morning he will be a Democrat in his seat." (Laughter and applause.)

"Why, sir," continued Mr. Barksdale,

"the Republican party in Virginia last year was split all to pieces, and the members of the factions were cutting each other's throats with knives. The world was going to be a Democratic one, and down here to corrupt the voters of Virginia. (Prolonged applause.) I believe the Senator from Powhatan to be a gentleman, but I want to say right here that he is in awfully bad company." (Applause.)

THE ONLY TWO OBJECTIONS.

Mr. Barksdale said that objections to the law made by Senators Boykin and Wickham could be narrowed down to two—unconstitutionality and the color of the ballots. He had no objection to having Democratic ballots red; he did object to making the Populist's green; he would like to have the Republican as black as Hades.

So far as the primary plan of selecting a candidate being in the direction of senatorial representation based upon population was concerned, Mr. Barksdale said the idea was a good one. The plan of the bill was going to the people the method of choosing a candidate and binding the Legislature to send their choice to the Senate.

GREAT MEN NOT ALL DEAD.

Alluding to the eulogies pronounced upon the members of the convention which framed the Federal Constitution, Mr. Barksdale said:

"I think many of us talk ridiculous. Why, many of the men who were in that convention were never heard of before, and have long been forgotten. The speeches of many of them were poorer than the average heard in the Virginia Legislature."

He read extracts from the Madison papers showing that the father of the Constitution favored electing senators by popular vote.

Mr. Barksdale alluded to the "damnable trick" which Mr. Boykin had spoken of in his speech, and said that the authorities in the cities where papers were published use the right to tax them if they choose.

Messrs. Foster, Clayton, Mason, and

McLain have earnestly advocated the bill, which Mr. Morris, though a friend of the measure, felt constrained to oppose on principle, and it was ordered to its engrossment, with apparently two negative votes.

House of Delegates.

The House yesterday passed Judge Watkins's bill allowing State banks to issue obligations payable in merchandise silver bullion. The bill providing for a Bureau of Labor Statistics was also passed.

The House was called to order at noon

by Speaker Ryan, and Rev. Mr. Moore

read afternoon prayer.

NO HOLIDAY TUESDAY.

Mr. Saunders, of Franklin, offered the

following:

"Resolved, That whereas, the end of

the session is almost upon us; and whereas,

much of the important work of the

General Assembly remains in an unfinished

state; and whereas, the value of the

work to be done depends largely upon the

amount of care and deliberation which

shall be bestowed upon it; and whereas,

our time is now precious and the

days remaining for legislative work

are few in number and likely to be over-

crowded with business;

Therefore, it is the sense of this House

that by remaining at our post of duty on

February 22, 1898, and, if possible, doing

an extra amount of work, we will more

appropriately honor the natal day of

George Washington, than by adjourning

to spend that day in idleness." The bill

providing for discussion, the resolution

was agreed to.

AS TO OYSTER INSPECTORS.

Mr. George C. Bond, of King and

Queen, offered the following:

"Whereas, it is represented to the

House of Delegates, that many oyster

inspectors have not reported to the Auditor

of Public Accounts, and have not paid

into the Treasury the taxes collected by

them, or which ought to have been collected

by them; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a special committee

consisting of five appointed, whose

duty it shall be to inquire and determine

whether the oyster inspectors have made

to the Auditor of Public Accounts the

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